

Welcome Back Home.

GRANT SECURED FOR HIGH-SCHOOL VOCATIONAL TRAINING

IN THE SUMMER OF 2013, PCED and Ivy Tech surveyed local employers to determine where lie the greatest employee-training needs. A number of soft skills ranked highly, and programming has been developed to address these concerns. Also at the top of the list was industrial repair and maintenance; the demands of such a hands-on program have proven to be prohibitive thus far. This could be changing soon.

In late December, PCED, with the assistance of an education consultant, submitted an application through the Region 1 Works Council for a Career and Technical Education (CTE) innovative-curriculum grant. Local employers pledged financial support, in-kind contributions, or both; the Pulaski County Community Foundation (PCCF) and the Pulaski Alliance for Community Education agreed to provide cash; and PCCF signed on as the fiscal agent. Local support is valued at more than \$28,000.

At an event at the Statehouse on 10 February, PCED Executive Director Nathan P. Origer, accompanied by administrative staff and students from West Central High School and the president of the PACE board, represented the Pulaski County coalition as Governor Mike Pence formally announced the **award of \$82,355** to the Pulaski County Repair and Maintenance Technology (RAM-Tech) program.

Continued on page 2.

DID YOU KNOW ...

that the Small Business Administration offers small-business loans and loan guarantees, assistance with venture capital, training and counseling, help with government contracts, and more?

Contact us to learn more!

2015 Economic Development Summit to pick up where 2014 event left off

In March 2014, Dick Heupel, of Ball State's Building Better Communities, keynoted the annual Economic Development Summit. Emphasizing the importance of quality of place to economic development, Mr. Heupel touched on local strengths and weaknesses and charged us not to seek to be "the next so-and-so", but to be excellently authentic — to become the best Pulaski County possible.

We are pleased now to announce the fifth annual Economic Development Summit. Following a welcome from PCED Executive Director Nathan P. Origer, a catered meal, and the State of the County Economy address, Geoff Schomacker, Director of Project Development & Community Affairs at the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs, will offer the keynote address. Mr. Schomacker will focus his talk on the Hometown Collaboration Initiative (HCI); in January, Pulaski County was named one of six inaugural participants in this program. With a focus on placemaking, the Pulaski County HCI team will be developing a plan for making Pulaski County the best Pulaski County possible. The community is invited to this free event and encouraged to participate in the discussion of the Pulaski County economy and HCI.

The Summit will occur on Tuesday, 3 March, at 7:00p.m., at the Cornerstone Event Center, 204 North Bill Street, Francesville. RSVP by noon on Friday, 27 February, at 574-946-3869 or nporiger@pulaskionline.org.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

Pulaski County Human Services on 40 years of people serving people for the good of all!

Judy Stinemetz, 2015 recipient of the Chamber's H.J. Halleck Community Service Award!

the Pulaski County Historical Society and other supporters on the Pleasant View Rest Home's nomination for designation to the National Register of Historic Places!

Hometown Collaboration Initiative: Pulaski County one of six communities chosen for new State program

In January, Pulaski County was selected by the State of Indiana as one of six participants in the inaugural round of the Hometown Collaboration Initiative (HCI). Sponsored by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA), in partnership with Ball State's Building Better Communities, the Ball State College of Architecture and Planning – Urban Design, the Purdue Center for Regional Development, and Purdue University Extension, HCI is a retooled, more-focused replacement for the former Home Town Competitiveness program, in which Lieutenant Governor Sue Ellspermann had participated, and by which she had been inspired, in her hometown.

HCI is a program that empowers communities of fewer than 25,000 persons to identify and to weave existing economic and community assets to develop and to energize community-wide leadership and engagement; to focus on economic development strategies; and to enhance their attractiveness as places to enjoy and in which to live. Community buy-in and action are fundamental to prioritizing where your community needs to focus its resources to build a

sustainable future focused on addressing issues and opportunities. As such, a community survey will be conducted as part of the process.

It is, at this time, the intention of the Pulaski County HCI team, with support from PCED, to focus this initiative on placemaking, by examining ways to build on our community's natural and built resources. Our hometown team will take stock of its physical assets and explore the integration of the arts, culture, and historic preservation into efforts to revitalize our county, at the same time attracting and retaining young talent, increasing the quality of life for older residents, and conquering the east/west cultural divide, uniting us as neighbors and friends.

The team, carefully selected by the PCED office and approved by OCRA, currently comprises 14 persons from every municipality and walk of life in Pulaski County, including business leaders, young entrepreneurs, County employees, recreation-industry workers, educators, youths, and retirees.

The program will end with a capstone project, which will be brought forth by a culmination of the team's work and coaching throughout the program. The State of Indiana will be a major financial contributor to the project.

RAM-Tech program for high-school students receives State funding

Continued on page 2.

The RAM-Tech program will operate out of West Central High School and be open to students of that school and Winamac Community High School, and likely to students at other member-schools of the Indian Trails Career Cooperative, too.

An entirely new CTE pathway in Indiana, RAM-Tech will expose students to such skills as measurement and print reading, electrical fabrication, hydraulics and pneumatics, basic electricity, programmable controllers (including PLC), mechanical fabrication, mechanical systems, and electrical machines.

After successful completion of "Preparing for College and Careers" and "Intro to Advanced Manufacturing" as underclassmen, students will then presumably proceed into Industrial Repair & Maintenance I and II; the program will culminate with a capstone class that involves work-based learning opportunities. Numerous local employers

have agreed to take on high-school interns in their maintenance departments.

Before a final map is drawn for RAM-Tech, local educators and employers, PCED, and Ivy Tech will partner to develop a pathway (based on curricula provided by Amatrol, the manufacturer of the various training modules that will be purchased with grant and local-match funds) that meets specific local manufacturing needs; State requirements; and standards for certification, dual credit, or both.

Long-term goals for this project include not only successful completion of RAM-Tech by countless students, but adult-training opportunities, whether for incumbent employees sponsored by their companies or for local residents looking to create new opportunities for themselves, possibly with financial help from partners such as WorkOne.

Talk about economic capacity building!

PULASKI COUNTY, PARADISE ON THE TIPPECANOE



(Image credit: Scott Roudebush)

Pulaski County's newest recreational business

Having received the necessary zoning change for her property on U.S.-35 just south of the Tippecanoe River State Park, JSI Steel's Bobby Rugg is ready to develop the newest attraction that tourists' delight Pulaski County will have to offer: Rugged Adventures.

The centerpiece of this activity center will be a KristallTurn® high-ropes climbing tower, featuring an event platform, three stories with 36 elements, and a ground-level children's course — plus a zip line! Other aspects include two laser-tag fields, two archery-tag/bubble-soccer fields, and zorbs (human-sized hamster balls!) for ground and downhill zorbing and relay races.

Bobby decided to take on this endeavor as she contemplated the frequency with which children today opt for electronics over fresh air; what new safe, fun opportunities could be provided for kids, kids at heart, and families; and what could improve Pulaski County's already great appeal to visitors.

Rugged Adventures will focus on group outings during the week, but still likely be open to the general public, and then remain open to the public on weekends.

We're very excited for Bobby's success, which no doubt will be a great boon to Pulaski County!

THE PULASKI ONLINE JOB BANK

*IF YOU'RE AN EMPLOYER IN PULASKI COUNTY
LOOKING FOR QUALIFIED LOCAL WORKERS,
THEN CONTACT PCED TO ADD A JOB LISTING,
FREE OF CHARGE, TO THE ONLINE JOB BANK.
([HTTP://DEVELOPMENT.PULASKIONLINE.ORG/
JOBS/](http://development.pulaskionline.org/jobs/)) CHECK IT OUT IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A
JOB IN PULASKI COUNTY, TOO!*

WHY PULASKI COUNTY?

WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF EVERYWHERE;
YOU CAN BE, TOO.



CONTACT PCED @ 574-946-3869, OR VISIT
[HTTP://WWW.PULASKIONLINE.ORG/](http://www.pulaskionline.org/)

Our Mission

Pulaski County Economic Development's mission is to promote and to improve the quality of economic development throughout Pulaski County in pursuit of excellence through the following endeavors:

- *Supporting the expansion and continued investment of Pulaski County businesses.
- *Recruiting new business and industry into Pulaski County.
- *Promoting tourism and the increase of transient spending in Pulaski County.
- *Developing and supporting business services such as workforce development, infrastructure, planning, financial programs, technology initiatives, and entrepreneurial programs.
- *Conducting charitable and educational activities

Pulaski County Community Development Commission/ Economic Development 2014-2015 Leadership

President: Bill Champion, Fratco
Vice-President: Lawrence Loehmer, Loehmer's
Hardware and Farm Supply
Secretary: David Zeltwanger, DK and Sons, LLC
Membership Officer: Doug Roth, County Council
Board member: Andrew Fritz, Fritz Black Sand Farms
Executive Director: Nathan P. Origer
nporiger@pulaskionline.org
Project Coordinator: Krysten Hinkle
cdcasst@pulaskionline.org

***Like* us on Facebook:**

<http://www.facebook.com/PCCDC.ED>